



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

Northern Rockies Coordination Center

Aerial Fire Depot

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Wildland Fire Update

08/12/07 – 10:00 a.m.

- Red Flag Warnings from Noon-9:00 p.m. calling for gusty winds and low humidities creating potential for high fire growth for southwest Montana, parts of central Montana and north central Idaho!
- A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory has been issued for conditions in portions of the Northern Rockies Area.
- Inciweb is still experiencing delays due to high volume use. Individual incident information phone numbers are posted with each incident at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/information/information.htm>.
- In the Seeley Lakes area, Highway 83 remains restricted to local and fire traffic from the Clearwater Junction to Condon due to the Jocko Lakes Fire.

Current Situation:

- Initial attack was heavy yesterday with 45 new fires. Five new large fires were reported. Four of the five fires are out of Miles City, MT. – one was fully contained.
- Four large wildland fires are burning in Idaho for 188,098 acres.
- 16 large fires are currently burning in Montana for 331,237 acres.
- 39 fires are being actively managed as Wildland Fire Use (WFU) fires in Idaho, Montana and Yellowstone NP. These fires are actively managed to achieve resource benefits and reduce risk to firefighters. The fires range from less than one acre to 21,888 acres.
- Five Type 1 Incident Management Teams (IMTs), eight Type 2 IMTs and one Fire Use Team are currently assigned in the Geographic Area. Other resources include 175 crews, 2,185 engines, bulldozers and other equipment, and 3,010 overhead including the IMTs.

Risk Management:

High temperatures and low humidities are key factors for heat stress that can lead to cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Loss of body fluids through continuous sweating can occur at a rate of more than 1 liter per hour. This can compromise heart and circulatory function and the ability to work. Avoid placing yourself at risk and drink lots of fluids before, during and after your shift.

Predictive Services:

Temperatures are warming up in Montana with the hottest occurring across central and eastern Montana. Afternoon southwest winds will develop across Idaho and Montana causing very low humidities. North Dakota can also expect warming temperatures and gusty southeast winds. Higher

State of Montana
Montana Firewardens Association
Montana Division of Disaster
and Emergency Services

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA Forest Service
State of Idaho
North Dakota Forest Service

temperatures, low humidities, and higher Haines values raise concerns for increased fire growth. Large fire risk exists and possible new starts from lightning hold over starts.

Fire Behavior:

Red Flag Warning for gusty winds and low relative humidity has been issued for most of Idaho, Montana, northwest Wyoming and far southwest North Dakota – Haines index at moderate to high. Expect the potential for very active to extreme wind driven fire behavior initiated by strong winds. Plume dominated fire behavior is very possible on fires with moderate to high Haines index. Long range and profuse spotting should be expected with wind driven and plume dominated fires. Some locations will experience poor humidity recovery tonight creating the possibility of fires burning actively through the night.

Smoke:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is reporting generally good conditions throughout northern Idaho. However, smoke will continue to settle in the valleys in the evenings and early mornings. Moderate conditions reported for Whitefish, Missoula and Hamilton today and generally good conditions across other areas in western Montana. The Montana DEQ provides information on using local visibility guidelines to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions at <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>.

Resources:

A high demand continues for Incident Management Teams and other firefighting resources. Availability of resources has declined as other geographic areas are beginning to pick up in fire activity.

Fire Restrictions:

Stage 1 and 2 restrictions are in place across many units in western Montana and northern Idaho. For specific Fire Restriction Information: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/index.htm>.

Closures:

To provide for the safety of visitors, there are parts of several units closed to recreation access.

Although the wildland fires in Montana and northern Idaho have localized effects, both areas welcome visitors for a variety of adventures. See: <http://www.visitmt.com/fire/conditions.htm> or <http://www.visitidaho.org/>

Fire Information:

For further information on wildland fire activity:

www.inciweb.org

http://www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>